

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01887 252144Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 252032Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7974

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1887

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID BB

SUBJ: CDB: AID TEAM VISIT NOVEMBER 6-10

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1833

TO AID FOR VENEZIA

1. MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING FORTHCOMING MEETINGS FROM CDB'S POINT OF VIEW WILL BE WAYS AND MEANS OF SIMPLIFYING USAID LOAN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES. LAST WEEK'S MEETING BETWEEN CDB AND AREA LDC REPRESENTATIVES SAW LATTER COMPLAIN VIGOROUSLY ABOUT "ONEROUS" AID PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS, ALLEGEDLY UNREALISTIC NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL BIDDING ON SMALL PROJECTS AND OTHER LONGSTANDING PROCEDURES FOLLOWED FOR USE OF AID FUNDS. CRITICISM WAS SHORT ON SPECIFICS AND LONG ON GENERAL UNFAIRNESS OF PLACING SUCH REQUIREMENTS ON TERRITORIES NOT EQUIPPED WITH SUFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT. ONE SPECIFIC ITEM THAT DREW FIRE WAS REQUIREMENT THAT HANDCLASP EMBLEM BE PLACED ON GOODS AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASED WITH AID LOANS. LDC REPS MAINTAINED THAT MOST SUPPLIERS REGARDED THIS REQUIREMENT AS NUISANCE AND THAT SOME CLAIM THAT THEY WOULD RATHER NOT PROCESS SMALL ORDERS IN VIEW OF EXTRA ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INVOLVED IN AFFIXING EMBLEM.

2. DEMAS APPARENTLY GREATLY ENHANCED HIS STATURE AMONG AREA LDC'S BY CONVENING MEETING FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MEANS OF EXPEDITING LDC LOANS (REFTEL). LDC OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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FORMLY PRAISED UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE OF NEW

CDB PRESIDENT.

3. WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE IN US INTERESTS TO FURTHER ENHANCE DEMAS STATURE AND PERHAPS POLISH UP SOMEWHAT TARNISHED CDB REPUTATION AMONG AREA LDC'S BY DISCLOSING THAT ONE PURPOSE OF AID TEAM VISIT WOULD BE TO RESPOND TO MR. DEMAS' REQUEST TO TRY TO IDENTIFY MEANS OF EXPEDITING LOANS TO LDC'S. IF AID IS AGREEABLE, WE WILL ISSUE BRIEF PRESS RELEASE TO THIS EFFECT IDENTIFYING TEAM MEMBERS AND STATING THAT OBJECTIVES OF VISIT ARE TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE WAYS TO EXPEDITE LDC LOANS, TO REVIEW OUTSTANDING LOANS AND TO CONTINUE ONGOING PROCESS OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH CDB. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE AID COMMENTS ON ADVISABILITY OF THIS TYPE PRESS RELEASE.
SIMMS

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NNN

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